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METROPOLITAN URBAN INDIAN DIRECTORS

Call for Action

We, the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors, along with community members, families and friends call on the Minneapolis City Council to take immediate action on the behalf of the American Indian community to address several areas of concern. We demand the following:

- A complete and full investigation of the recent death of Carol Garbow whose body was found at 1530 East Franklin Avenue on the grounds of the Minneapolis American Indian Center.
- A full investigation of and re-opening of all unsolved murder and rape cases involving American Indian victims during the last decade.
- Identification of areas known to have high numbers of murders and rapes and an increased police presence at these areas. These areas should be evaluated to insure that all possible safety measures are taken to reduce the high number of violent crimes in these areas.
- A meaningful working relationship with the Minneapolis Police Department and the American Indian community to include American Indian representation and involvement in the Federal Mediation process.
- Cultural sensitivity training for all police officers on American Indian cultures and values.
- Formation of a round table meeting, established by the City Council, that would consist of City Council members, the Chief of Police and leaders of the American Indian community to develop strategies to address the disproportionately high numbers of unsolved violent crimes against the American Indian community.
- All present and future community development within the Phillips neighborhood must take into consideration the safety of all citizens that will be affected by increased traffic and commerce.

We would like the City Council to take formal action to address these concerns no later than their next meeting on December 13th, 2002. Any further discussion or questions can be addressed to Frances Fairbanks, Executive Director of the Minneapolis American Indian Center at 612-879-1700, or Clyde Bellecourt, American Indian Movement at 612-251-5836.